

Kanab Resource Management Plan

Brief History

The Kanab Field Office Resource Management Plan (KFO RMP) will consolidate the Vermilion, Paria, Zion, and Escalante MFPs, and portions of the Cedar-Beaver-Garfield-Antimony RMP. The plan includes public land managed by the GSENM which is outside of the monument boundary. The Field Office manages 550,000 surface acres and 96,000 sub-surface acres within Kane and Garfield counties.

The RMP is a contracted plan/EIS. The Notice of Intent was issued on April 2, 2004, and over 1,000 comments were received during the public scoping period. Kane and Garfield Counties and the State of Utah are cooperating agencies.

Major Issues

OHV use – area receives high levels of OHV use and old plans leave the area largely open to cross country travel. Route designations need to be made to meet existing and anticipated transportation needs, OHV use levels, and resource conditions and objectives.

Minerals and Energy – there has been a renewed interest in lands available for oil, gas, and mineral materials development in the planning area. There is a substantial coal resource in the area with one Lease by Application to surface mine coal in the Alton area that is currently being processed.

Recreation – the current management is inadequate in handling the increasing recreational use the area is receiving. The plan will allow for management of a variety of recreational opportunities to be provided and the subsequent outcomes to be attained (activities, experiences, and benefits).

Special Designations – considering river segments that are “eligible” and “suitable” for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rives System and considering whether potential ACECs will be designated is of high interest to the cooperators, interest groups, and the public.

Status/Schedule

Making minor adjustments to Chapter 2 (alternatives) based on recent State Director’s Briefing. The contractor is working on Chapter 4 analysis of the Draft RMP/EIS.

Draft RMP/Draft EIS expected to be available to public in January 2007 followed by a 90-day public comment period.

Next Steps

The KFO will continue to work with the cooperating agencies on the consideration of suitable Wild and Scenic River segments within a range of alternatives in the Draft RMP. The FO is also reviewing the preliminary draft of Chapter 4 in preparation for a State Office/Cooperator review of the Draft RMP/EIS in October 2006.

